

# Miami Correctional Facility Implements K-9 Team

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Commissioner J. David Donahue

Bunker Hill, INDIANA (April 26, 2007) - The Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) recently received 13 dogs into its newly-constructed dog kennel and implemented its first K-9 Team.

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"The presence of the K-9 unit at MCF will greatly enhance the ability to detect the unauthorized entry of narcotics and tobacco. The placement of the K-9 teams at key areas like the back gate and visitor processing can reduce the entry of narcotics and tobacco into the facility," Charles Williams, MCF K-9 Field Commander, said of his unit.

The facility received narcotics, tobacco, aggression and tracking dogs. They are primarily German Shepherds and Labrador Retrievers ranging between 1 and 2 years old. The dogs are being trained and certified through the International Police Working Dog Association.

The 13 handlers also went through a week's training at Westville Correctional Facility. The type of training each handler completed differed depending on the type of animal they were assigned. Training included basic commands and corrections of the animals, use of proper training aids, learning the indication signs of the dog, and how to handle the animal in an emergency situations, and basic K-9 first aid.

The dogs will be present during facility shakedowns and serve as an additional resource to prevent

contraband movement throughout the facility. The teams can also be called out to go to other Indiana Department of Correction facilities when emergencies occur or to assist in offender or staff shakedowns.

"Safety and security of the facility will also be enhanced with the K-9 Teams presence," Williams added.

"The physical presence of the teams serves as a deterrent that encourages more compliance" MCF Superintendent Walter E. Martin said.

"An important benefit also falls directly in line with the department's stance on Re-Entry," Williams continued.

The dog kennel, which was constructed with staff and offender labor, has 14 stalls and was built in 5 months.

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**About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.